

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend claims 1, 4, and 14 as follows.

Please add new claims 18-20.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for sharing an input device across a plurality of computing platforms, comprising:

routing input data generated at a first server blade to a second server blade, said input data generated in response to receiving an input signal produced by an input device coupled to a first server blade; and

providing the input data to an operating system running on the second server blade, wherein routing input data to the first and second server blades and providing the input data to the operating system are performed via a first firmware and a second firmware on the first and second server blades, respectively.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the method is performed via firmware in a manner that is transparent to the operating system running on the second server blade.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the input device comprises one of a keyboard and mouse.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for sharing keyboard, video and mouse resources across a plurality of computing platforms, comprising:

routing user input data produced at a resource host server blade in response to user inputs via a keyboard and mouse coupled to the resource host server blade to a target computing platform;

providing the user input data to an operating system running on the target computing platform server blade, wherein routing user input data to the target computing platform and

providing the user input data to the operating system running on the target computing platform are performed via a first firmware on the resource host server blade and a second firmware on the target computing platform, respectively;

routing video data produced by an operating system running on the target server blade to the resource host server blade; and

processing the video data at the resource host server blade to generate a video display signal to drive a video display coupled to the resource host server blade.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the method is facilitated by firmware stored on each of the resource host and target server blades.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising maintaining global resource mapping information identifying the resource host and the target server blades.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising maintaining a local copy of the global resource mapping data on each of the plurality of server blades.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising maintaining the global resource mapping data via a central global resource manager.

9. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the user input and video data are routed over an out-of-band communication channel.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the OOB communication channel comprises one of a system management bus, an Ethernet-based network, or a serial communication link.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the plurality of server blades operate in a blade server environment.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the method is performed in a manner that is transparent to operating systems running on the plurality of server blades.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the method is facilitated by firmware running on each of the plurality of server blades.

14. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, which when executed on first and second server blades support sharing of keyboard, video and mouse resources coupled to the first server blade by performing operations including:

routing input data produced at the first server blade in response to user inputs via the keyboard and mouse to a second server blade;

providing the input data to an operating system running on the second server blade; and

routing video data produced by the operating system running on the second server blade to a video signal generation component on the first server blade, wherein routing input data produced at the first server blade to the second server blade and providing the input data to the operating system running on the second server blade are performed via a first firmware and a second firmware on the first and second server blades, respectively.

15. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein the instructions comprise firmware instructions.

16. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein the article comprises a flash device.

17. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein the operations are performed in a manner that is transparent to the operating system running on the second server blade.

18. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second firmware utilize an Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) framework.

19. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second firmware runs in the pre-boot prior to operating system load.

20. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second firmware runs during runtime of the operating system.